

80/567468
AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 FEB 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : To Be Assigned Confirmation :
No.
First Named Inventor : Konrad EIPPER
Filed :
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :

Docket No. : 095309.57356US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Connection Between Two Parts, and Associated
Connection Method

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

I. Time Period of Submission

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (*Ex parte Quayle*), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:

a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or

- a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- 3) after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith:
a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and
a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

II. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

- I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
- I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

III. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

- I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

IV. Submission of Non-English Language Documents

- The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449:

The relevance of document to the subject matter of the present invention is/are provided in the specification of the above-identified application.

Corresponding foreign or international reports citing documents AB-AF, together with an English-language versions (if not already in English) of that portion of the reports indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office(s) is/are submitted.

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English language family member publications of document(s) noted on Form PTO-1449.

English language abstract(s) is/are submitted for documents AG - AI.

English translation(s) of the foreign language document(s) _____ is/are submitted herewith.

Applicant submits the following explanations:

V. Continuations/Divisionals

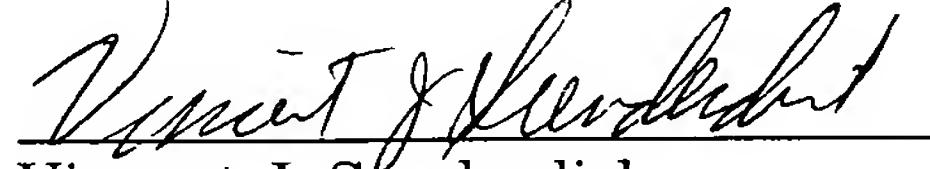
Documents _____ were of record in parent application Serial No. _____, filed _____, from which this application claims benefit. As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously submitted to or cited by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the afore-mentioned parent application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, this paper should be considered as an authorization to charge Deposit Account 05-1323, Attorney Docket No.: 095309.57356US, for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

February 7, 2006



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	1	Application Number	To Be Assigned (PCT/EP2004/008778)
				Filing Date	February 7, 2006 01567163
				First Named Inventor	Konrad EIPPER 0156878
				Art Unit	To Be Assigned
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	57356US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
	AA	US- 5,707,473		01/13/1998	Agrawal et al.	
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
	AB	DE 101 37 994 C1		12/5/2002	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG		
	AC	DE 100 29 411 A1		12/20/2001	Bayer AG		
	AD	DE 195 23 498 A1		01/04/1996	VAW Aluminium AG		
	AE	FR 2 693 772 A		01/21/1994	Hutchinson		
	AF	WO 2004/050351 A1		06/17/2004	Bayer AG		
	AG	DE 38 29 428 A1		03/01/1990	Philips Patentverwaltung GmbH		
	AH	DE 199 00 632 A1		07/13/2000	Tyco Electronics Logistics AG		
	AI	DE 198 47 775 A1		04/20/2000	Artur Fischer Tip GmbH & Co.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.